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Nobody Listened: The disastrous events in Iran over the last three years demonstrated a serious breakdown in U.S. intelligence. The fault was not in our intelligence agencies' underlings, but in the superstars of foreign policy in Washington, who heard only what they wanted to hear and ignored any reports that suggested their preconceptions might be wrong.

Some of these suppressed intelligence reports can now be quoted verbatim. In 1975, for example, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations prepared an eerily accurate report titled "Terrorist Movements in Iran." It not only identified the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as a substantial threat to the shah, at a time when the CIA and the State Department gave no indication they had even heard of the man, but warned that American personnel in Iran were very likely to be targets of the 'anti-shah forces' wrath.

Khomeini "has come to be a symbol of resistance for Iranian political dissidents of widely varying political persuasions," the Air Force analysts reported.

The report explained why Americans in Iran would be tempting victims for terrorists: The large number of Americans gave them high visibility; their concentration in a few locations made the terrorists' job easier. And "an attack on them will garner national and international publicity."